:ady said that as far as possible it will be proportion to the population.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more is re-uired. Please come to the question.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Roughly peaking, what will be the percentage of inorities?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is disal-wed. The hon. Minister has already replied the question. If you want to ask some other uestion, I will allow you.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSRI: My next sup-lementary is what will be the location be-ause location is also very important. Unless nd until location is proper, it will not be vailable to the sensitive areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. What will be the ocation?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: We propose to ocate the battalion specially at communally ensitive areas.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: ir, so for as recruitment to the Armed Forces, aramilitary forces, Police Forces is con-erned, there is no discrimination between he various communities. Peopel are se-ected according to the merits and qualifica-ions required. Well, that is exactly the posi-ioin. Anybody who marits selection, is se-ected. By providing any specific percentage or any particular community in a force either t is in respect of military force or paramilitary forces or the Rapid Action Force or the public force will it be constitutionally correct when no particular percentage has been provided in any other service for any particular com-munity? Will it be appopriate to have such a paramount decision taken which can have its effect in all other services also?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Constitutionally, certainly there is nothing wrong. Regarding every community, every section of the soci-ety if it were to get proper representation, we have not decided before-hand that this community will get so much. Merit is also one of the considerations. But the other consid-eration has also to be there that they have ton evoke the confidence of the people whom they have to handle. So, this is also another very important criterion for recruiting them or for selecting them.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Our Armed Forces are considered as multi-religious in character. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it will be multi-regional also. If it is multi-regional, I have to point out one thing. Regarding recruitment to the various posts in the CRPF is concerned, I must point out that the representation to the North-Eastern States in the CRPF is not at all adequate. Will the Minister consider giving special attention to the recruitment of North-Eastern people in the Rapid Action Force?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The Rapid Action Force is one thing. But if they are not already there in the CRPF, I cannot help it because this is a matter of selection from the CRPF. For matters of recruitment, it is going to be done against the vacancies which are going to arise. As far as the Rapid Action Force is concerned, the selection has to be made from out of the CRPF and certainly we will keep this idea in view that the North-Eastern Region in also represented.

Saarc Summit

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*126 SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the rope played by the Indian dele-gation during the recent SAARC Summit held at Colombo;

(b) the subjects discussed and the decisions arrived at during the Summit;

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government;

(d) whether any measures had been suggested at the Summit to tackle international terrorism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Indian delegation worked together with other delegations during the Sixth SAARC Summit held in Colombo in a constructive manner and was active in securing some significant agreements which are reflected in the Colombo Declaration.

2. The subjects discussed at the 6th SAARC Summit and decision on them include strengthening of economic cooperation, measures to protect and preserve environment including measures to provide for disaster relief in times of natural disaster cooperation in the alleviation of poverty, implementation of a visa exemption scheme in respect of entitled catergories of persons from March 1 and inter-action among specialised agencies with a view to control terrorism in the SAARC region.

3. All concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India have been informed of the decisins and have been requested to take follow-up action as required.

4. The SAARC leaders recognised that cooperation among SAARC Member States was vital if terrorism was to be prevented and elininated from the region. They urged the Member States to take all necessary measures to give full effect to their obligation under the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. The leaders stressed the urgent need for the expeditious enactment of enabling legislation for the implementation of the convention and aiso on a constant dialogue and interaction among agencies of the SAARC Member States.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Sir, initially, the Colombo SAARC Summit was expected to take piece even earlier December. There were some confusions and ultimately we were glad that it had taken place in Colombo. They have deliberated on a number of issues which are useful to our region and particularly the aspect of containing the terrorism in these regions has been mentioned in the deliberations. in his repiy, the hon. Minister has stated that the obligation of containing terrorism is to be done by the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. May I know from the hon. Minister by what time this Regional Convention to contain the terrorism will take place? Is there any venue decided?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The Convention to contain terrorism to which the hon. Member has referred has already been ratified by all the Member-countries of the SARRC. What remains is to bring in an enabling legislation, as far as India is concerned, in this Parliament. As far as India is concerned, we are now working on this and will bring the nevessary legislaioin in furtherance of our ratitfication of the convention to contain terrorism as soon as possible.

SHRI P. M.. SAYEED: There are a number of other issues which the SAARC Summit has deliberated the economic cooperation, measures to protect and preserve environmental conditions and to give relief in times of natural disaster, economic cooperation in the alleviation of poverty and also the implementation of a visa exemption scheme in respect of certain categories from 1st of March, 1992. May I know what are the steps taken in this direction to achieve the tanginble results for the benefit of this country? I would like to know whether any machinery has been evolved to translate these actions for the benefit of the member- States.

SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO: Hon. Member will be happy to know that from the 1st of this month of March, they will not require visa to visit any of the SAARC countries. They have been exempted from visa. This is operative from state the 1st of March. That applies to the Members, applies to their spouses and children up to the age of 18 years accompanying them. This exemption also applies to the Judges of the Supreme Court and also to the heads of some specified reputed academic institutions. That is a benefit that accrues from the 1st of March.

Members also will be happy to know that a breakthrough has been made after all these years of economic cooperation. There were lot of difficulties in achieving what has been achieved. What has been achieved is now an agreement to set up an institutional framewok for specitic measures of trade liberalisation among the SAARC Member-States. And also we are examining and the Members of SAARC are examining a proposal to establish a SAARC preferential trade arrangement (SPTA) which will be operative from 1997. This is being examined. If it is viable in principle, we would like to have it. The Member countries would like to have it. The operational part is being examined.

Then it has already been decided to have SAARC Fund for identitication in development of the regional economic projects and the Chairman of this Fund, which is a Fund of five million US dollars, is India, the Chairman of the IDBI, our umbrella financial institution. This chairmanship will last for three years. We hope to identify some projects which will be beneficial to the development of some of the countries of this region.

On the question of environment, mentioned by the hon. Member, among other thihngs.

MR. SPEAKER: If your reply is too long, can you send to him in writing?

SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO: All right, Sir. I would like to inform the House that in the next month, on the 8th and 9th of April, there will be a ministerial meeting of all the SAARC countries here in Delhi to discuss questions of environment and specifically to find out if we can have a common position for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Brazil in the month of June.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any special discussion took place in the SAARC Summit meeting at Colombo about the growing menace of terrorism in South Asian region, particularly on Pakistan's support to such activities in India. If yes, the steps taken in the matter by both the Government?

MR. SPEAKER: Bilateral issues are not raised.

[*English*]

SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO: As you have already pointed out bilateral issues are out of the purview of the Charter.... (*Interruptions*)

SHIR HARIN PATHAK: I want to know about the total view in the whole of the region.

SHIR EDUARDO FALERIO: And the Charter takes the total view. And that difinitely is discussed. Therefore, the convention has been signed and ratified.

SHIR HARIN PATHAK: What action has been taken?

SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO: We will bring the legislation before you. We have already ratified it.